

LaRouche holds dialogue with civil rights leaders

Over 25 leaders of the U.S. civil rights movement, including current and former state legislators, trade unionists, religious leaders, and other civil rights activists, participated in an hour-and-a-quarter conference call with Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. on Nov. 23. The dialogue was broadcast “live” on LaRouche’s campaign website (www.larouhecampaign.org).

The webcast took place in the context of a dramatic battle between LaRouche and a faction of the Democratic National Committee which is attempting to have the 1965 Voting Rights Act (DNC) declared unconstitutional (see press release on the next page). On Aug. 16, attorney John Keeney, Jr., representing former DNC chairman Don Fowler in a lawsuit filed against him by LaRouche, argued that the four Supreme Court justices who opposed the Act, but were outvoted, were *right*, and that their dissent “is going to put into question the constitutionality of the entire Act” (see *EIR*, Nov. 5, p. 64).

LaRouche, in his brief opening statement to the webcast participants, drew out the broader significance of this fight to preserve the achievements of the civil rights struggle.

“We have now come into a period of crisis,” he said, “in which it’s not simply a matter of anti-African-American civil rights—it’s much broader. Perhaps African-Americans are more *sensitive* to this than others, but the problem is broader.

“The question is one of civilization: Is every human being made in the image of the Creator of this universe? If so, they have to be treated accordingly. This principle was called the principle of the General Welfare, which was first established as a policy of government during the course of the 15th century. The United States, despite the fact that we had skunks in New York, and skunks and slaveholders, and people like that in the woodwork, nonetheless, the United States was founded on this principle, this principle of the General Welfare—that government has no authority, nor responsibility, but that to defend and promote the General Welfare for living and future generations.

“What’s happened is, we’ve turned away from the concepts on which the nation was founded, and gone into something more like the old British system—free trade, shareholder values, all this junk—and a growing role of the Southern Strategy, both in the Republican Party, which has profitted greatly from this racist turn, but also among the Democrats who have turned in the same direction, in the name of ‘triangulation,’ or ‘Third Way,’ or whatever they call it.

“So, we’ve come to a time, when the African-American,

who is better organized, in terms of understanding the problem, sees clearly what I see: racism. But the racism is not a product of just anti-black racism. It’s a product of an attitude toward humanity which does not recognize man as being in the image of the Creator, and does not recognize the obligation of government, to defend that principle, as the only legitimate basis for the authority and responsibilities and duties of government.

“So, we’ve come to a time in which it’s not just a civil rights issue. But, Martin emphasized, Martin Luther King, that making the nation *whole*, means that civil rights must be won. Not just for the people who apparently benefit, ostensibly, African-Americans, but for *all* the people. This nation will not be a decent place to live in, until, once again, we accept the policy which Martin typified in our memory.”

Questions

Participants then proceeded to fire off questions to the candidate on a wide range of policy issues affecting the General Welfare. Here is a selection of the questions; for the answers, see the transcript of the discussion on the campaign website, or in the Dec. 6 issue of *New Federalist* newspaper.

- The Bush boys, the Florida Bush and the Texas Bush, are pushing this notion that the private sector can take care of the General Welfare of the people. How do you respond to that?

- Racism is basically tearing this country apart. Why hasn’t Clinton done more about it?

- If you look at Clinton, in our times, and you look at Roosevelt and Kennedy in their times, I don’t think there was very much difference in the men’s morals. Because Kennedy and Roosevelt—history and sidelights on history tell me that they had some of the same type of affairs, the same type of accusations that Clinton has, but the media didn’t play it the same way.

- Have you been invited to participate in any of the Democratic primary debates? If not, how do you plan to get around, and get your message across?

- When do you think that the big economic bubble will burst in the United States?

- If you were President, what would you do to improve the African-American policy towards Africa?

- As I understand it, Mr. LaRouche, this current attack on the Voting Rights Act stems from your case filed against Don Fowler and the Democratic National Committee, and their imposition of Rule 11K, and around the term of “pre-clearance.” Could you share with the audience Rule 11K, and the pre-clearance issue surrounding your case?

- (From Michigan State Rep. Ed Vaughn): I represent 85,000 people in my legislative district, and Mr. LaRouche has a better than 50% chance of winning the Michigan Democratic Primary, even though the Secretary of State would not place his name on the ballot. We do have a petition drive going. Mr. LaRouche, have there been any other movements

in Michigan, that you can relate to us?

- What kind of heat is recommended that we turn up on Democrats, to get them awakened to this possibility, this tragic possibility, of the Voting Rights Act being ruled unconstitutional, knowing that you've got Republican-appointed Supreme Court justices, dying—licking their chops—to do this?

- How would you protect the Social Security Trust Fund?
- I wanted to ask a questions about the trend, the mega-merger mania trend that you spoke of. And it appears that

everything in our economy is pulling away from the normal people, who need living wages and need to get along. And the question is, basically, how do we address this? I mean, there are too few voices speaking to working folks, and too many economic forces pulling away, sort of alienating us from our economic forces and money.

- You speak about free trade, which I think is a detriment to our economy, but everybody, you know, it seems like most of our political leaders, are in favor of it, on both sides of the aisle.

DNC caught lying on Voting Rights Act

The following release, entitled "DNC Washington Office Caught Lying," was issued by Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche's campaign committee on Nov. 23.

Faced with a growing revolt against a frankly racist court action, in which attorneys representing the Democratic National Committee (DNC) have argued for nullification of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, officials in the Washington, D.C. DNC office have been caught lying to Democratic elected officials and activists who have called the headquarters of their national party to voice their alarm and concern.

At issue is a 1996 lawsuit brought by Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, and Democratic voters from Virginia, Louisiana, Texas, Arizona, and the District of Columbia. The lawsuit charges that Donald Fowler, who was then Chairman of the DNC, violated the Voting Rights Act, when he ordered state Democratic parties to disregard the votes of thousands of Democrats in the 1996 Democratic Presidential primaries and caucuses, who cast their votes for Lyndon LaRouche.

Fowler hired Washington, D.C. attorney John C. Keeney, Jr., whose father, Jack Keeney (Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice), has been a key figure in the racist campaigns which the permanent bureaucracy of the U.S. Department of Justice has been conducting against targetted African-American elected and public officials throughout recent years.

The younger Keeney proceeded to argue before a three-judge panel in Federal District Court in Washington, D.C., citing a (dissenting) opinion recently authored by Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, that although national political parties are, indeed, covered under the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the act itself, which represents the crowning achievement of the civil rights movement,

should be declared unconstitutional.

Understandably, the Washington office never informed members of the Democratic National Committee, Democratic elected officials, local Democratic Party officials, or anyone else, of the raging legal battle.

Representatives of Democratic Presidential candidate LaRouche have learned, that in an effort to calm a tidal wave of fury directed at the Washington, D.C. office, Duane Ingram, the DNC's Director of Correspondence, is disseminating what he knows to be false information to the growing number of angry Democratic Party officials and members.

Debra Freeman, Lyndon LaRouche's national spokeswoman, released a statement on Nov. 23, in which she states, "We have learned that Duane Ingram is responding to inquiries by simply lying to callers.

"Although there seem to be a few variations of Mr. Ingram's theme, the heart of his comments are that Mr. Keeney's actual intentions were *not* to support nullification of the Voting Rights Act, but *to save it!*" Freeman, who said she had reason to believe that Ingram was also about to put the response in writing, said she was astonished that Ingram would lie so blatantly, especially when the court transcripts leave no room for "interpretation" (see www.larouchecampaign.org, or *EIR*, Nov. 5, p. 62).

Something they wanted to do for some time

"The facts are simple and irrefutable. And, Ingram's lying cannot explain away what every veteran of Presidential politics has been telling us: This is not about a group of misguided party hacks desperate to keep Lyndon LaRouche out of a party convention. We all know that, right or wrong, there are a dozen ways that could be accomplished *without* arguing for nullification of the Voting Rights Act. Keeney, Fowler, and that crowd simply used this occasion to move to do something they have wanted to do for some time, and that is to turn back the accomplishments of the civil rights movement. It is racism, pure and simple," she charged.

Freeman concluded her statement by repeating Mr. LaRouche's demand that President Clinton, and the relevant DNC members, effect "a public repudiation of the frankly racist policy of Keeney and his culpable DNC clients."